

**CROWN POINT GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE
EIGHT AND UNDER
LEAGUE RULES**

Revised March, 2018

LEAGUE PURPOSE

The eight and under division is intended to further the child's skills but also to introduce a higher level of play. They will learn to be competitive but also a good sportsmanship.

GAMES/TIME LIMITS

Games shall consist of five innings. A game is also completed, upon expiration of the one-hour and 15 minutes time limit. No inning shall start after one hour. If the home team is leading going in to the bottom of the fifth inning they will not come to bat.

CANCELLATION OF GAMES

In the event of bad weather, the league director will determine if the field is playable.

MAKE-UP GAMES

All make-up games should be played within fourteen days of cancellation if a field is available. Both coaches will agree and recommend a date and time than submit it to the league director. The league director shall have complete authority in rescheduling dates and times for makeup games. They will be canceled only due to weather conditions and then rescheduled under the same conditions.

LINE-UPS

A continuous batting order is used. All players present at the start of the game should be listed in the pre-game batting order, any players who show up after the game has started will be added to the bottom of the order. If a batter or base runner must leave the game due to injury, the last batter that made an out can take her place to complete that at bat or base running. The next time the injured player is due to bat, her spot will be skipped if she cannot re-enter. She may re-enter if physically able.

The pre-game line-up should include the player's name, uniform number, playing position and batting order. The lineup should be given to the opposing manager and the Head umpire before starting the game. Games may be played with as few as seven players.

RETURNING PLAYERS

Players returning to an age group shall be assigned to a team through the league coordinator and league director.

New players to the league shall be drafted in a fair way so teams are even as possible. Sisters are to be assigned to the same team unless the parents request otherwise.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance will be said before each game is started.

DUGOUTS

The home team will occupy the third base dugout. Each team must clean up their side of field and dugout after each game. Please inform your parents and spectators. The last team to play each day shall be held responsible to be certain that everything on their side of the field is clean. It is suggested that your team not take the dugout until the entire area has been cleaned by the team completing play. Inform the other manager of his or her team's need to clean the area or it will become your responsibility.

GAME BALLS

Umpires will receive game balls prior to each game from the Crown Point Parks and Recreation Department representative.

BATTING HELMETS

All base runners, batters, and on-deck hitters must wear batting helmets with protective facemask. Any youth warming up a pitcher must be wearing a protective facemask on or off the field.

SCORING

Score will be kept with home team being the official scorebook. If the home team is ahead at the end of time or the bottom of the fifth inning they will not come to bat. It is the away team's responsibility that the scorebooks are in agreement.

HIT BY PITCH

A batter HBP has to make an attempt to get out of the way to be awarded first base or else the pitch will count as a ball. A ball that bounces then hits the batter will be counted as a ball. If a pitcher hits 3 girls in one inning, she must be pulled from the pitching the rest of that inning but may re-enter pitching the next inning.

PITCHING

For the safety of everyone on the field, pitchers and coaches must pitch from the rubber. A girl may only pitch for 2 innings per game. There are no walks allowed, if the batter has four balls the coach will then come in and assume the strike count and pitch to his player. A coach may stand where he/she feels comfortable with the pitcher on either side as long as they are within the pitcher's circle. A coach may knock down a line drive that threatens his/her or the pitchers safety. If the coach strikes out the batter it counts as a team out. The batter may not be walked by the coach. When the batter is finished the pitcher will continue to pitch to the next batter.

BASE RUNNING

On a hit ball the batter and base runner may advance at the risk of being put out until the ball is returned to the pitcher or until "time" has been called by the umpire. Runners will be awarded the base they were closest to as time is called. The pitcher just needs to touch the ball (as in an attempted catch) for time to be called. Any base runner that runs into a playable ball will be called out. Runners can lead off but only after the ball has been released. If a runner is caught leaving early the runner is out.

OVERTHROWS

An overthrow/ passed ball is defined as a ball thrown at its intended target and travels (on the fly or bounces/rolls) beyond the defensive target in such a manner that the defensive player has lost control/possession of the ball. In the event of an overthrow/passed ball on a batted ball, the base runners may advance one base and the play is dead.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE

The umpire must raise his or her hand and call time when in their opinion the play is dead. This is done after every play. The umpire must signal "play ball" in order to resume.

PROTESTS

If there is a situation where the manager wants to protest, he/she must take it to the league director and if it can't be resolved there the case can present it to the advisory board and league coordinators.

DEFENSE

A maximum of ten players is allowed to be on the field. Six players in the infield, and four players in the outfield. All outfielders must stand at least 10 feet behind the infield baseline. A game can be started, played and finished with as few as seven players. If one team has seven players and the other team has a full complement of players, there is no penalty to be assessed against team with more players. Coaches are encouraged to rotate players at different defensive positions.

CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER

The batting team will be allowed three outs per inning or all players have bat, whichever comes first. At the time the final batter is up, the batting team will automatically have two outs. The fielding team may play either for the third out or tag home plate to end the inning. Until a player with the ball touches home plate the runs coming in will be counted unless the third out is made elsewhere on the field. An outfielder may not run the ball in to touch home to make the final out. Base runners are to keep advancing until the last out is made. The final batter must either hit or strikeout. The overthrow rule is in play.

FINAL GAME RESULTS

HOME TEAM MANAGER is responsible for reporting all scores and results to the league director the **SAME DAY** a game is completed. **Scores MUST be reported to:** John Stroia - jstroia@crownpoint.in.gov or call 219-661-2272.

GENERAL RULES

- Guidelines from the USA Softball Official Rules Participant Manual 2017, www.usasoftball.com
- One manager is allowed in the outfield grass to coach the defensive team and one coach is allowed behind the catcher to help with passed balls.
- Pitching distance - 35 feet
- Modified Pitching distance (pitchers can pitch from the front of the circle 30 feet)
Voted on by the managers in our meeting of **March, 2018**
- Base path - 60 feet
- Softball- 11" inch safety ball (coaches may practice with the hard ball)
- Bats - Regulation Softball Bats Only
- Time Limit – 1 hour 15 minutes
 - Game can't begin a new inning after the one hour time limit has occurred
 - Game is called once time limit reaches 1 hour 15 minutes
- Maximum Innings - 5 innings
- Sliding - Optional
- NO Walks, Stealing, Bunting, or infield fly rule
- Courtesy Runner - Yes for pitchers and catchers only, runner will be the last out that was made.
- Helmet Rule - All players must keep their helmets on until they reach the interior of the dugout. The players will be warned twice and the third infraction will result in the player sitting the rest of the game.
- Tie Games –will end in a tie except during playoffs.
- Outfielders must stand on the outfield grass until the ball is hit.
- No fielder shall position themselves in the runner's path to the base.
- For safety purposes all shirts must be tucked in at all times. Coaches and umpire are to enforce this uniform policy.
- If standings are taken, a tie doesn't count as a loss, the final standings/statistics goes to winning percentage of the team because one team has less losses.

PLAYING TIME

Teams may field up to ten (10) girls at one time on the field (4 outfielders). Outfielders shall play on the edge of the infield grass not on infield surface. No girl shall sit the bench more than one inning until all players have sat the bench at least one inning.

For example: if your team has 12 girls, each player will sit out every 6th inning. Girls should be exposed to multiple positions throughout the season to maintain their interest and enjoyment of the game. Coaches should rotate batting orders each game to allow players to bat at various levels of the batting order.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship on and off the field is expected from all managers, coaches, umpires, players, parents and spectators. Poor sportsmanship such as; verbal abuse, profanity, bragging, taunting, throwing of equipment and inappropriate gestures, etc. shall not be tolerated. Players who fail to show restraint during a game may be benched by the umpire, managers, coaches, or league director. The manager or coach will be ejected for any verbal or physical abuse during a game by the umpire, Umpire-in-Chief, or league director.

If the manger is ejected only the assistant coach listed on the game's official line-up card shall be permitted to continue coaching the team. Repeat offenses will be reviewed by the league director and advisory board members to determine if further disciplines required. Please take time to encourage your players, families, and friends to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times on and off the field.